

3/27/23

Recap of FY 24 Budget Process

- **TA meets with Finance team to determine projected FY 24 revenues.**
- **TA meets with Departments Heads to review requested “Level Service” budgets.**
- **It is determined there is a deficit of \$2,000,000 +**
- **We held a community summit to explain the issues.**
- **We hold second community, and the TA proposes that a budget reduction plan would have the schools take 67% of the deficit and the town take 33% along with various override options to offset some of the reductions.**
- **The SB suggests the TA present a budget with a 60/40% split between the school and town. With updated information about State Aid and a reduction in the BVT request the deficit is now \$1,900,000.**
- **TA presents an adjusted budget showing the schools would need to cut \$1,142,000 and the Town \$762,000.**
- **The school presents the negative effect of reducing class offerings, programs, increased fees, etc. with a \$1,142,000 reduction in their proposed budget.**
- **The TA presents several reductions in Town budgets totaling \$762,000 that include closing the Council on Aging, Library and Parks.**
- **The TA also presents a plan for a \$1,350,000 override and the use of \$100,000 of Free Cash to restore most proposed school cuts as well as restoring the COA, Library and Parks. The cost of the override for the average taxpayer for the override only would be \$562 a year. Under this plan the schools budget requested would still be reduced by \$232,000 and the Town \$222,000**
- **The Finance Committee meets to discuss the situation and votes 4-1 to recommend to the Select Board an Override of \$1,200,000 with the use of \$250,000 in Free Cash to accomplish the same goal of restoring most proposed School/Town reductions. The difference is that the cost for the \$1,200,000 Override is \$497 v \$562 for the \$1,350,000 override or \$65 less. Their recommendation equates to about a weekly cost of just under \$10 a week in higher taxes for the average taxpayer with an assessed value of \$450,000. The higher use of Free Cash is worrisome.**
- **The SB votes for an Override of \$1,350,000 and the use of \$100,000 in Free Cash.**
- **Finance Committee endorses proposed budget and Override.**
- **SB endorses Budget and Override Plan.**

- The Select Board voted on an Override amount and any use of Free Cash towards the deficit. They voted to set the Special election for May 23rd.
- Select Board endorses a plan to reduce the Towns budget by \$762,000 as well as a plan to restore budgets if the Override is successful.
- The Select Board, Finance Committee reconcile differences, if any, in the Override/Free Cash plan and budget issues
- A final budget is be presented at the Town Meeting with a contingent budget if Override is successful.
- The citizens vote at the annual town meeting on May 16th on a balanced budget that cuts \$1,900,000 and a contingent budget that restores ??? and the Override election is held on May 23rd.